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believes that she will die. The man's representatives are therefore able to establish the child's paternity from the birth-pang confessions of the woman.

The child is kept in the hut where it was born, for six or seven days, while the umbilical cord dries and falls off. During this time (*lusil*) the child is unnamed, and it is named only when it is taken out of the hut. Should it die during this period of seclusion it remains unnamed and is referred to by a special term (*litepa*, pl. *matepa*). I have therefore been able to enumerate live births by means of the distinction made between miscarriages and still-births (*kwasaga*) and children who lived long enough to be referred to as *matepa*. After the birth of the child the woman may not have intercourse for four or five months. To do so would be to endanger the life of the child with a disease called *ndoka*,[1] which is contracted by a sexually inactive person when he comes into contact with a sexually active person. The husband may have intercourse with a second wife, but must take care to medicate himself so that he does not endanger the life of his child. When the child is about 4 or 5 months of age the parents perform ritual intercourse and medicate the child against the mystical dangers of sexual activity; sexual relations are then resumed.

The Yao say that a second child should not be born while the first is still being suckled. Since lactation continues for about two years I am uncertain whether monogynists remain continent, as they say they do, or whether coitus interruptus is practised. It is quite usual for husbands to become labour migrants when their children are still very young. I have known women to write to their husbands who are away working and tell them to return because their children have 'grown', i.e. have been weaned. Labour recruiters had difficulty in recruiting men immediately after the soldiers had been demobilized at the end of the war, because the women objected, saying that they had remained childless long enough and the men must first wait until children were born. However, actual examination of birth-dates shows that children are sometimes born within a year of one another and sometimes there are quite big gaps. The two-year gap between children is probably an ideal which few attain.

3. The Estimation of Fertility

(a) *Sundbarg's Age Divisions*

As a preliminary estimate of fertility, Sundbarg's trichotomy of ages may be considered. The argument behind this division of the population into Youth, Middle Age, and Old Age is that those populations with a high proportion of youth have a greater tendency to increase. Table V shows this trichotomy for the Yao with the same material for some other populations shown for comparison. Where the gross reproduction-rate is known for the period shown in the table, this is included.

At any one time a certain proportion of the population is absent from the area, usually at some labour centre. Hence the proportions of the population are distributed abnormally. In all there appeared to be a total of sixty-three men, women, and children absent from the hamlets, who would otherwise have been living there. Hence in Table V these have been included in the totals in the 'Yao with absentees' proportions.

[1] A disease of this sort is believed in by many Central African tribes. Among the Nyanja-speaking peoples it is known as *chimbo*.

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Table V shows that the age-distribution for the Yao sample is very similar to certain other populations commonly held to have high birth-rates. There appears to be some correlation between the proportion of youth in a population and the gross

TABLE V. *Sundbarg's Age Divisions*

Population	Year	Youth 0-15	Middle age 15-49	Old age over 50	G.R.R.
Yao*	1946	43·4	45·6	11·0	..
Yao with allowance	1946	40·6	47·4	12·0	..
Honduras†	1940	40·6	47·7	9·7	..
Nicaragua	1940	40·9	47·7	9·6	..
Guatemala	1940	42·6	46·3	9·1	..
India	1931	39·9	50·4	9·7	..
Japan	1935	36·9	47·9	13·3	0·745‡
Bulgaria	1934	34·9	48·9	13·1	0·730
Czechoslovakia	1930	28·3	50·3	19·3	0·591
New Zealand	1936	27·3	50·7	21·8	0·564
Denmark	1940	24·9	50·1	22·9	0·518
Sweden	1940	22·4	51·4	24·6	0·485

* There were 25 in the sample whose ages were not known. These were all adults and have been included proportionately in the two adult groups.

† All data for other populations taken from *The League of Nations Statistical Yearbook 1941/42*.

‡ Interpolated between 1930 (0·755) and 1935 (0·745).

reproduction-rate. Judging from the material presented in Table V a high gross reproduction-rate may be expected among the Yao where the proportion of youth is much higher than in the case of those whose gross reproduction-rates are quoted.

(3) The Proportion of Children under 5 to Women 15-50

Fertility may be judged more accurately than by this trichotomy by considering the proportion of children under 5 to the total number of women between the ages of 15 to 50, i.e. the fertility ratio.[1] In the whole sample there were 147 children under 5 and 192 women between the ages of 15 to 50. This is a ratio of 766 children per 1,000 women. However, women who are going away from the area for a long time, as, for example, wives of men who are going with their husbands to some labour centre, possibly in South Africa or Southern Rhodesia, usually leave their weaned children with their matrilineal relatives. This means that the ratio quoted (766 per 1,000) is, in reality, an over-estimate of the true ratio. In order to arrive at a nearer estimate of the ratio we must consider the children actually born to women in the sample. Table VI classifies all children both dead and surviving born to women between the ages 15 to 55. From this table we adduce that there were 151 women between the ages 15 to 50 (for whom details were available), and among them they had 141 surviving children under the age of 5. This is a fertility ratio of 738 per 1,000 women. Table VII shows the fertility ratio for 18 countries with their gross reproduction-rate for the same period as the fertility ratio.

[1] It is more usual to take the number of women between 15 and 44, though recently the age-group between 20 and 24 has been used. I have taken the age-limits 15 to 50 because of the early age of marriage, and because it is supposed that the average age of cessation of child-bearing is about 50 (see Table VIII). For a discussion of the suitability of this measure of fertility where birth-registration is not practised, see T. Lynn Smith, *Population Analysis*, McGraw Hill Book Co., New York (1948), p. 136.